

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Tip-offs Resulting in Prosecution

Question reference number: HS 182

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard pages 112-113

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

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Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I will continue on from there. Of the 87 cases that were referred from the tip-offs, how many resulted in prosecution?

Mr Withnell: Sorry, Senator, I missed the first bit.

Senator SIEWERT: Of the 87 that I understand were from the tip-off process and that were referred, how many resulted in prosecution?

Mr Withnell: I do not have that broken down, but I do know that on average our acceptance rate by the CDPP—that is, they take it forward to prosecution—usually runs at around 95 per cent.

Senator SIEWERT: To prosecution?

Mr Withnell: Of the matters we refer, they take forward.

Senator SIEWERT: Of the broader number that you referred to, the 1,366, again, how many of those were—

Mr Withnell: That is the 95 per cent figure for that group. I do not have it broken down for the tip-offs.

Senator SIEWERT: Ninety-five per cent is in fact for that figure, not for the tip-offs.

Mr Withnell: That is right.

Answer:

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) is the independent prosecution service established to prosecute alleged offences against Commonwealth law and, as such, all data relating to prosecution action should be sourced from the CDPP.